

Contributions

THE OUTLOOK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE BRETHREN CHURCH

W. D. FURRY

In today's (June 25) issue of the Chicago Times Herald there is a statistical report of the gains made to the work of the higher education in the United States during the scholastic year just ended, from which I wish to draw some lessons that may be helpful to the same cause, especially in so far as our own church is concerned. I think that it may be safely said that not only for the first time have we entered the field of higher education, but that we have entered under auspices the most inspiring and circumstances the most promising and hopeful.

From the report to which I have already made reference it is to seem that as a nation, we are interested in the cause of higher education as we never before have been. There were 108,983 students in the various colleges and universities during the year, which was a gain of from 1 to 20 per centum over the previous year. Every institution of higher education had an increased attendance, except the University of Pennsylvania, which decrease was due to the raising of entrance requirements in the Medical School. During the year \$16,644,392 was given in various ways. This amount would be much larger, but the presidents of the various colleges and universities, (Columbia for instance) were not permitted to make known the endowments made. Five universities, Washington at St. Louis, Harvard, Brown, Chicago and Chicago Institute received \$1,000,000 or more.

As to gain in attendance, the University of Oregon stands first with a gain of 40 per centum. The gains made by all the others vary from 40 to 2 per centum. From this increase it is inferred that not only has the country made great material gains but that a greater need of higher education is appreciated both by parents and youth. This latter especially affords encouragements to those interested in the cause of higher education. I know of no more auspicious time in our history to found a college than *now*. Not only is our population rapidly increasing together with material things, but the condition of affairs that necessitates a higher education is obtaining more and more among us; and moreover, the youth of our land are, to a greater extent than ever, seeking the highest development of mind and body.

If other colleges are hopeful with a gain varying from 2 to 20 per centum, surely as a church, we have great reasons to be hopeful for the future success of our college. During the past scholastic year 69 different students were enrolled, making an increase of almost 100 per centum of previous year. It must be remembered also that the year just ended was our second year only; and I have reasons for the hope that our increase next year, by some judicious work, can again be doubled. In the state of Ohio last year

there were four colleges, Ohio Wesleyan, Findlay, Oxford and Denison, that reported no increase, and one, Heidelberg, that reported a *decrease* of 3 per centum in attendance. The highest increase in Ohio was 26 per centum made by Muskingum. In the light of these figures, we can certainly rejoice in the progress we have made and feel encouraged to broaden our work even at an increased expense.

From the report I learn that the institutions that made the greatest gains during the year in attendance were also those that received the largest endowments. It is well known that no institution of higher education can exist without endowments. The time also is passed when we look forward to the time when a university shall become a *money making institution*. There have been and doubtless are persons yet in the Brethren church whose only hope is that Ashland College shall some day pay in coin all that has been put into it. But not only will it ever be able to do so, but I am quite sure that neither the Board of Trustees nor the faculty are laboring with that end in view; *and if they are, there is no plea whatever for the existence of Ashland College as an institution of the higher learning*. We condemn the individual as avaricious that bends all his energies to money getting and whose sole aim in life is to be counted rich. And shall we say less of any public institution, especially one that is set for the higher education of the youth that may come under its influence? That educational institutions may not be compelled, in a measure, to limit their influence to those able to compensate them fully, they must be endowed. As a nation, we appreciate this, and the amounts given, in one form or another, from year to year, is gradually increasing. Last year, as we have seen, the amount given was \$16,644,392. This makes it possible for institutions to bring higher education within the reach of the masses of the people.

There is certainly a lesson here that as a church we needs must learn. The Brethren church is certainly able to provide an endowment for Ashland College, the interest on which would place the officials and instructors above all embarrassments. The plan that is at present proposed is certainly the best that could be devised. Is it possible that there are not five hundred persons, churches or societies in the church that will pledge themselves to pay six dollars each year for ten years to Ashland College? Will it involve a sacrifice? Then think of the sacrifice that the present faculty is making and will make for years. They are men willing to make the sacrifice. There is not a man on the staff at present that could not draw a much larger salary elsewhere for the same work. And this is not all; but it will suffice. In the light of this can not the endowment be raised to \$25,000 before the next scholastic year opens?

The outlook for the college is the most promising and encouraging in its history. This is inferred not only from its own atten-

dance but from the present condition of others. But the great need is support. Ashland will never fill the place in the church or in the world that it ought to fill unless endowed and that quickly. Christian institutions are necessary to check the great wave of materialism that is sweeping across our land, and permeating our institutions of learning. Our state institutions are fast becoming the fittest soil in which materialism thrives and from which it radiates to tincture and corrupt everything that is high and noble. These institutions receive state aid and thus can furnish free tuition. The institution therefore that would oppose them and attempt to bring the youth within its walls for instruction that will help them to reach the end of their creation, must also be able to place education within their reach, and this can be done only by institutions that are heavily endowed.

Certainly enough has been said both concerning the promising and encouraging outlook of Ashland College together with its most pressing need. It remains to be seen whether as a church we appreciate our opportunity, and discharge the responsibility that it carries with it. If we neglect the opportunity it will pass to another, for "opportunity neglected is opportunity transferred." If Ashland College is ever to succeed the time is now upon us. Will we as a church arise to the opportunity, seize it and use it to the utmost. This alone will ensure success.

THE SOURCE OF THE BELIEVER'S VICTORY

S. KIEHL

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. Heb. 12:2. Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God. I John 5:4, 5.

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God (I John 4:15.) No safer dwelling place in the universe. Let us all say, Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory thru our Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:57. Are we believing and confessing in a way pleasing to God? If so, in Christ we have victory and to him be the glory.

Dayton, O.

BRETHREN AT WORK

J. W. BEER

Work is a small word of very extensive sense and use. We must work in some way to accomplish any work. We as disciples of Christ, as members of his body, and as brethren and sisters, known as brethren, have a great work to do; and that it may be done properly and thoroughly, it is necessary to work zealously, faithfully, hopefully, and by the best methods. This work is the work of God in the world enjoined upon his children thru his Son and by the Holy Spirit. It is fully described in the Word of God, in the gospel of Christ, which "is the power of God